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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KNUC](#) [ENRG](#) [ETTC](#) [IR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: ATOMIC ENERGY HEAD SEEKS COOPERATION -- UNDER A
PEACEFUL USES TREATY

REF: A. 06 ANKARA 1458
[1](#)B. 06 ANKARA 4994
[1](#)C. 06 ANKARA 5900

Classified By: Pol-Mil Counselor Carl Siebentritt for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) Turkish Atomic Energy Authority head Okay Cakiroglu told us May 16 that U.S. ratification of the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (PUNE) treaty is key to deeper bilateral cooperation on the entire range of nuclear energy issues. He confirmed Turkey's intention to develop nuclear power for electricity generation and said the Turkish government is already in discussions with the major U.S. and non-U.S. firms involved in nuclear power. He suggested, however, that more concrete cooperative efforts would require a PUNE treaty.

[1](#)2. (C) Cakiroglu stated his agency is not satisfied with mere technical cooperation, whereby the U.S. offers the GOT technical assistance, training, and some equipment. While acknowledging that Turkey remains far behind the U.S. in nuclear technology and R&D, he insisted that Turkey wants a partnership rather than client relationship with the U.S. Referring to end use monitoring and other oversight rules, Cakiroglu complained that the U.S. does not treat Turkey like a trustworthy ally.

[1](#)3. (C) When asked about specific areas where the U.S. has sought cooperation, Cakiroglu was clear that the GOT is interested in the Sister Labs program but not inclined to press forward in the absence of a PUNE treaty. Cakiroglu was also clear that further progress on exchanging nuclear fuel assemblies (HEU to LEU) at Turkey's Cekmece research reactor will depend on progress with PUNE ratification. He stressed, however, that his agency would continue to cooperate closely with us on technical law enforcement and proliferation matters. He regretted that Turkey is ready to do much more, but must insist on a PUNE framework.

[1](#)4. (C) Comment. Cakiroglu's complaints, which we've heard many times before (reftels), are echoed by our Foreign Ministry colleagues, who remain confused and suspicious at the perceived lack of progress on U.S. ratification of the PUNE treaty. His comments gave the clear impression that Turkish unwillingness to proceed with the Sister Labs program and HEU-LEU conversion is designed to get our attention, and is not based on any opposition to the projects themselves. Cakiroglu seemed genuinely disappointed that time was passing while the potential for a nuclear energy partnership remained unfulfilled. End comment.

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